

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (currently amended) The iron type golf club set according to claim 8, wherein  
a depth  $L_i$  ( $i$  is a natural number of 1 to  $n$ , and is attached in a sequential order from the club having the smallest loft angle in the set) of center of gravity corresponding to a distance between the center of gravity of the head and the a sweet spot, which is a foot of a normal line drawn from the center of gravity of the head to the hitting face, satisfies the following conditions (5) and (6):  
(5)  $L_1 \geq \dots \geq L_2 \geq \dots \geq L_n$ ; and  
(6)  $L_1 > L_n$ .
4. (previously presented) The iron type golf club set according to claim 8, wherein the thin portion occupies 15 to 70% of the free deflection area.
5. (currently amended) The iron type golf club set according to claim 8, wherein  
the thickness of the thin portion is between 1.2 and 2.0 mm, ~~and~~  
the thickness of the thick portion is between 2.0 and 4.0 mm, and  
the difference between the thickness of the thick portion and the thickness of the thin portion is between 0.2 and 1.5 mm.
6. (previously presented) The iron type golf club set according to claim 8, wherein the thin portion is formed in an approximately trapezoidal shape in which a horizontal length  $W_b$  on a side of a sole portion of the head is longer than a horizontal length  $W_a$  on a side of a top portion of the head.
7. (previously presented) The iron type golf club set according to claim 8, wherein

the thin portion is formed in an approximately trapezoidal shape in which a horizontal length  $W_b$  on a side of a sole portion of the head is longer than a horizontal length  $W_a$  on a side of a top portion of the head, and a ratio ( $W_b/W_a$ ) of the lengths is between 1.0 and 4.5.

8. (currently amended) An iron type golf club set of  $n$  ( $n$ : an integer equal to or more than three) numbers of iron type golf clubs having different head loft angles, wherein the set comprises at least one long iron having the head with the loft angle of not more than 28 degrees, at least one middle iron having the head with the loft angle being larger than 28 degrees and equal to or less than 41 degrees and at least one short iron having the head with the loft angle of not less than 41 degrees, ~~the~~ each head comprises a face plate having a hitting face on its front, and a head main body provided with a face receiving portion supporting a peripheral edge portion of the face plate around an opening portion, ~~the~~ each face plate has one thin portion having the smallest thickness and at least one thick portion having a larger thickness than the thin portion, in a free deflection area in which a back surface of the face plate faces to the opening portion, each head of the long iron and short iron comprises a weight member having a specific gravity greater than that of each head main body, the weight member of the long iron is attached to a toe side of the head main body, the weight member of the short iron is attached to a heel side of the head main body, and in a standard state where the head is mounted on a horizontal plane by a specified lie angle and loft angle, a horizontal distance  $X_i$  along the hitting face between a face center and a center of figure of the thin portion ~~and a horizontal distance  $S_i$  along the hitting face between the face center and a sweet spot which is a foot of a normal line drawn from the center of gravity of the head to the hitting face~~ satisfies the following conditions (1) to ~~(2)~~ (4):

(1)  $X_1 \leq X_2 \leq \dots \leq X_n$ ; and

(2)  $X_1 < X_n$ ;

(3)  $S_1 \leq S_2 \leq \dots \leq S_n$ ; and

$$(4) S1 < S_n;$$

wherein

~~said~~ the horizontal distance  $X_i$  is negative in the case where the center of figure exists ~~on a~~ on the toe side relative to the face center, and is positive in the case where the center of figure exists ~~on a~~ on the heel side relative to the face center,

~~said horizontal distance  $S_i$  is negative in the case where the sweet spot exists on a toe side relative to the face center, and is positive in the case where the sweet spot exists on a heel side relative to the face center, and further~~

the reference symbol  $i$  is a natural number of 1 to  $n$  and is given in a sequential order from the club having the smallest loft angle in the set.

9. (previously presented) The iron type golf club set according to claim 8, wherein the set comprises:

at least one long iron having the head with the loft angle of not more than 28 degrees and the horizontal distance  $X_i$  of from -5 to 0 mm;

at least one middle iron having the head with the loft angle being larger than 28 degrees and equal to or less than 41 degrees and the horizontal distance  $X_i$  of from -3 to 3 mm; and

at least one short iron having the head with the loft angle of not less than 41 degrees and the horizontal distance  $X_i$  of from 0 to 5 mm.

10. (previously presented) The iron type golf club set according to claim 9, wherein the horizontal distance  $X_i$  of the middle iron is larger than that of the long iron, and the horizontal distance  $X_i$  of the short iron is larger than that of the middle iron.

11. (currently amended) The iron type golf club set according to claim 8, wherein ~~the a~~ a sweet spot, which is a foot of a normal line drawn from the center of gravity of the head to the hitting face, is provided so as to be substantially coincided with the center of figure of the thin portion in each head.

12. (currently amended) The iron type golf club set according to claim 8, wherein ~~the~~ a sweet spot, which is a foot of a normal line drawn from the center of gravity of the head to the hitting face, is provided in the thin portion in each head.

13. (currently amended) The iron type golf club set according to claim 8, wherein a horizontal distance between the center of figure of the thin portion and ~~the~~ a sweet spot, which is a foot of a normal line drawn from the center of gravity of the head to the hitting face, is set within 2 mm.

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) The iron type golf club set according to claim 8, wherein ~~the set~~ comprises

~~at least one long iron having the head with the loft angle of not more than 28 degrees,~~

~~at least one middle iron having the head with the loft angle being larger than 28 degrees~~

~~and equal to or less than 41 degrees and~~

~~at least one short iron having the head with the loft angle of not less than 41 degrees,~~

the head of the long iron has one thin portion being formed on the side of the toe of the free deflection area and one thick portion being formed on the side of the heel,

the head of the middle iron has one thin portion being formed approximately in the center of the free deflection area and two thick portions being formed on both sides of the thin portion, and

the head of the short iron has one thin portion being formed on the heel side from the center of the free deflection area and one thick portion being formed on the toe side of the thin portion.

16. (currently amended) An iron type golf club set of n (n: an integer equal to or more than three) numbers of iron type golf clubs having different head loft angles, wherein

~~the~~ each head comprises a face plate having a hitting face on its front, and a head main body provided with a face receiving portion supporting a peripheral edge portion of the face plate around an opening portion,

the face plate has one thin portion having the smallest thickness and at least one thick portion having a larger thickness than the thin portion, in a free deflection area in which a back surface of the face plate faces to the opening portion, ~~said~~ the thin portion is formed in an approximately trapezoidal shape in which a horizontal length  $W_b$  on a side of a sole portion of the head is longer than a horizontal length  $W_a$  on a side of a top portion of the head, and in a standard state where the head is mounted on a horizontal plane by a specified lie angle and loft angle, a horizontal distance  $X_i$  along the hitting face between a face center and a center of figure of the thin portion satisfies the following conditions (1) and (2):

(1)  $X_1 \leq X_2 \leq \dots \leq X_n$ ; and

(2)  $X_1 < X_n$ ;

wherein

the horizontal distance  $X_i$  is negative in the case where the center of figure exists on a toe side relative to the face center, and is positive in the case where the center of figure exists on a heel side relative to the face center, and further the reference symbol  $i$  is a natural number of 1 to  $n$  and is given in a sequential order from the club having the smallest loft angle in the set.

17. (new) The iron type golf club set according to claim 8, wherein

a horizontal distance  $S_i$  along the hitting face between the face center and a sweet spot which is a foot of a normal line drawn from the center of gravity of the head to the hitting face satisfies the following conditions (3) to (4):

(3)  $S_1 \leq S_2 \leq \dots \leq S_n$ ; and

(4)  $S_1 < S_n$ ;

wherein

the horizontal distance  $S_i$  is negative in the case where the sweet spot exists on a toe side relative to the face center, and is positive in the case where the sweet spot exists on a heel side relative to the face center.

18. (new) An iron type golf club set of  $n$  ( $n$ : an integer equal to or more than three) numbers of iron type golf clubs having different head loft angles, wherein

each head comprises a face plate having a hitting face on its front, and a head main body provided with a face receiving portion supporting a peripheral edge portion of the face plate around an opening portion,

the face plate has one thin portion having the smallest thickness and at least one thick portion having a larger thickness than the thin portion, in a free deflection area in which a back surface of the face plate faces to the opening portion, and

the thin portion is formed in an approximately trapezoidal shape in which a horizontal length  $W_b$  on a side of a sole portion of the head is longer than a horizontal length  $W_a$  on a side of a top portion of the head.